

Farmers' Department.

HOT BEDS.—As the period has nearly arrived when hot-beds will be called into requisition for starting early plants and vegetables, we give a few hints in regard to their construction, &c., which will no doubt be timely if not suggestive.

A large majority of our readers undoubtedly start all their vegetables in the open ground, entiterring the idea that a hot-bed causes too much labor and expense. This is less than is supposed, while by the use of one many vegetables can be had several weeks in advance of the natural season, and some may be so far forwarded as to ripen, which, without its use, would not have reached maturity. A hot-bed consists of a collection of fermenting manure of generating heat, over this a few inches of fine mold to receive the seeds, the whole surrounded by a box and covered with glass to retain the heat and allow the light to enter. In room of something better, a rough box, covered with an old window sash, will answer a pretty good purpose.

If it is wished to construct a hot-bed, the following outline will give the necessary information as to frame, glass, soil, &c. The frame should be made of plank about a foot high in front, two feet high at the rear, and the end pieces of proper shape. If such are to be procured, these about six feet long and wide enough to hold four rows of 75 glass will be found to be of convenient size. The bars in the eastern lengthwise only, the ends of the panes of glass lap about a quarter of an inch and are fastened with putty and points as usual. The hot-bed should be on a dry location, inclining to the south, if convenient. Make out a box a little larger than your frame, cover it three or four inches deep with old hay or leaves, put on about a foot and a half of fine, clean horse manure, and press it down smooth and compact. Put on the frame and fill in the four corners of each, and after a day or two will have fermented and the heat be between 60 and 70 degrees, when the seed should be sown. Shade the glass until the plants are up, and ventilate during mid-day by raising the rear end of the sash. Close the sash at night, and if cold, cover with mats or old hay. Water as needed, with tepid water. As a general rule the time for straining plants in a hot-bed will be between five and six weeks before they can be transplanted to the open ground. Most of the seed may be sown in the mold, and transplanted directly to their permanent location, but cucumbers, melons and squashes should be planted in small pieces of sods inserted in the mold, as they can thus be transplanted without injuring their roots.—*Montgomery Farmer.*

EGGS.—Farmers and others ought to turn their attention more particularly, so as to furnish eggs at this time of year when they are most apt to fail. It is just as easy to have fresh eggs in January, February and March as in any other month, and they are then much more profitable.

To make hens lay in the extreme cold of winter, they must have a warm lodging house. It should if possible, face the South, so that the sun may fall upon it during the day. Every clink and creaky, by which the wind or snow could enter, must be stopped, and the northerly sides would be all the better if made double and closely stuffed with hay or straw. The hens should have access to the earth where they can scratch during the day without being greatly exposed to the cold. They require lime to manufacture the shells of eggs, and gravel to construct the upper and the lower millstones with which to grind their food. They must be kept supplied with pure water, their diet should be a generous one, and feeding them with warm food will stimulate their laying. But there is one thing to be remembered, without which all other care and feeding will in general be of little avail. To secure their laying constantly, they must have some animal food from day to day. During the summer season, they eat grasshoppers and insects of various kinds; but in winter this supply is cut off, and they must be fed with meat, or one chief ingredient of the eggs will be wanting, and the eggs themselves will fail. Any kind of meat will answer the purpose; even the refuse which is rejected by the butcher may be used if properly prepared. They will eat more readily if cooked, and made like us for winter meat.—*Observer.*

CABBAGE PLANTS.—The *Times* Farmer describes a novel way of raising cabbage plants practiced by a farmer who is usually very successful: "He takes an old hog-trough in the fall and fills it with soil, and puts it on the top of the fence or any place that will be five or six feet from the ground. Here it remains all winter. The frost mingles the soil, and in the spring it will be fit to work much earlier than the soil in the garden. He sows the seed in the trough, and has all the plants he wants, and some for his neighbors, and earlier, we are told, than they can be raised in any other way. A frost which will kill tender plants on the surface of the ground does not trouble them on the fence in the hog-trough."

FARMERS' SOCIETY.—A report to the Maine Agricultural Society says:

"Take any good soil and spade in a good coat of well-rotted manure and ashes, and if it is a compost of stable manure and leaves or manure properly prepared, so much the better. Three plats of ground should be laid out of sufficient size for the use of the family, in beds five feet wide, with alleys two feet wide. A row of plants should be set in the middle of the bed, and one on each side six or eight inches from the paths, setting the plants eighteen inches apart in the rows. The plants can then be taken care of, and the fruit picked from the alleys. The runs

should be cut three or four times during the summer. Strawberries cultivated in this way need to be mulched not only to insure them moisture enough during the season of fruiting, but to protect the roots from the ill effects of freezing and thawing; but care should be used not to give the crown of the plant too much covering during the winter, as there is nearly as much danger from overprotecting the crown as from a lack of protection. The fruit of fruit may be expected from this mode of cultivation, as the energies of the plant are not exhausted in the production of runners, and it affords a plenty of light and heat both, which are essential to producing the best of fruit. By pursuing the above plan, planting one-third yearly, an individual will obtain two crops from his plants before they need renewing."

TAX THE MAPLES.—We hope that those who love the maples, and the means and convenience to make sugar from them, will exert themselves to the utmost in order to obtain the greatest possible amount of sugar from the nervous system. What is natural is nearly always useful, and nothing can be more natural than the crying of children when anything occurs to grieve them either physical or mental pain.

Probably the *Albion Monthly* is becoming very quisquey on the subject of negroes. But nobody could expect the Atlantic to be the Pacific.

John Grant was in Philadelphia a few hours on Tuesday, was cheered by the crowd, and was active and gay upon the platform that he had to leave.

In accordance with the above the crying of children should not be too greatly discouraged.

If it is systematically suppressed, the result may be St. Vitus' disease, epileptic fits, or some other disease of the nervous system. What is natural is nearly always useful, and nothing can be more natural than the crying of children when anything occurs to grieve them either physical or mental pain.

Probably most persons have experienced the effect of tears in reducing great sorrow. It is even curious how the feelings are allayed by their free indulgence in grief and sighs. Then let their parents and friends show more indulgence to young bursts of grief on the part of children, as well as of older persons, and regard the eyes and the mouth as the safety valve through which inward discharges her surplus steam.

SUGAR-OPERATION.—Yesterday afternoon Dr. Atkinson extracted a piece of bone, about six inches long, from the leg of an interesting little boy, the son of Dr. Chase of 57 Bond Street. The little fellow, who is only eleven years of age, was placed in a dentist's chair, and a dose of laudanum administered to him by Dr. Colton. In a few seconds profound沉睡 was induced, and the surgeon to commence, and in three minutes the operation was performed. Presently, the boy opened his eyes, and gazing around, began to laugh at the people who were looking at him. Being informed that it had been extracted, "Why?" said the youth. "I didn't know it." After this, bandages were applied to the injured limb, and although the pain must have been intense, the little fellow was soon at his ease again, and a dose of laudanum administered to him by Dr. Colton. In a few seconds profound沉睡 was induced, and the surgeon to commence, and in three minutes the operation was performed. 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